

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Roberta Robins on August 10, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

First, it is noted that the After Final Amendment filed 7/23/2009 has been entered and the Examiner's Amendment is an amendment to the 7/23/2009 claims.

Claims 3, 7, 15, 17, 18 and 19 have been CANCELED.

Claim 12 has been amended to read:

A non-human animal for screening for agents that modulate tolerance to an immunogen wherein said non-human animal is prepared by the method of claim 1, and wherein said non-human animal is tolerant to said immunogen.

Claim 16 has been amended to read:

A non-human animal for screening for agents that modulate tolerance to a HCV immunogen, said non-human animal prepared by the method of claim 1 wherein said animal is tolerant to said HCV immunogen and wherein said non-human animal is a rodent.

Claim 41 has been amended to read:

A method for preparing a non-human animal for screening for agents that modulate tolerance to a hepatitis C virus (HCV) immunogen, said method comprising delivering a nucleic acid that expresses said HCV immunogen to said animal under conditions that result in the sustained expression of the HCV immunogen in the liver of the animal thereby inducing immunological tolerance to said HCV immunogen, wherein said nucleic acid is not present in the germline of said animal, wherein the HCV immunogen is peptide p214K9, and wherein said p214K9 is expressed for at least one month in the liver of said animal.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to J. E. Angell whose telephone number is 571-272-0756. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Douglas Schultz can be reached on 571-272-0763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/J. E. Angell/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1635